

What is claimed is:

1. A method of evaluating characters in a message, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) accepting an input of the characters of the message; and
 - (b) evaluating the message by comparing the characters of the message to a predetermined set of candidate character sets to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the comparing of step (b) comprises the step of comparing each character of the message to an entry for each of the candidate character sets in a character table bank.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of comparing each character comprises the step of testing the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the universal code is Unicode.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of (c) computing a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.
6. A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:
 - an input interface to accept an input of the characters of the message; and
 - a processor unit, connected to the input interface, the processor unit evaluating the message by comparing the characters of the message to a predetermined set of candidate character sets to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message.
7. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor unit compares each character of the message to an entry for each of the candidate character sets in a character table bank.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor unit tests the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the universal code is Unicode.
10. The system of claim 6, wherein the processor unit computes a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.
11. A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:
 - input interface means to accept an input of the characters of the message; and
 - processor means, connected to the input interface means, the processor means evaluating the message by comparing the characters of the message to a predetermined set of candidate character sets to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor means compares each character of the message to an entry for each of the candidate character sets in a character table bank.
13. The system of claim 12, wherein the processor means tests the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.
14. The system of claim 13, wherein the universal code is Unicode.
15. The system of claim 11, wherein the processor means computes a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.
16. A storage medium for storing machine readable code, the machine readable code being executable to evaluate characters in an electronic message according to the steps of:
 - (a) accepting an input of the characters of the message; and
 - (b) evaluating the message by comparing the characters of the message to a predetermined set of candidate character sets to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message.
17. The storage medium of claim 16, wherein the comparing of step (b) comprises the step of comparing each character of the message to an entry for each of the candidate character sets in a character table bank.

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